
**HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD
STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

Landmark/District:	Engine Company No. 19	<input type="checkbox"/> Agenda
Address:	2813 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent
Meeting Date:	October 27, 2011	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition
Case Number:	11-081	<input type="checkbox"/> Addition
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alteration
Staff Reviewer:	Tim Dennée	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revised concept

The applicant, property owner the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department (with JDOS Internationale and R2L Architects), requests the Board's conceptual review of a proposal to reconstruct the two vehicle-bay openings on the building's primary elevation in order to increase their width. The widening of the doors would demolish the watch room between them. The Board first reviewed the proposal in April and requested more detail and revisions.

The firehouse is to undergo a thorough modernization. Full plans have been reviewed by some disciplines but not yet by the Historic Preservation Office. As indicated in the April staff report (attached), there are more exterior alterations proposed, but the present drawings focus on the doors alone.¹

Engine 19 is one of the few historic firehouses where it appears that a significant door-widening could occur without major and incompatible disruption of the façade.² While it will be costly and will result in the demolition of the watch room that stands between the doors, the drawings suggest that the result could be reasonably compatible, at least when weighed against the adaptability interest of making a firehouse more serviceable.

The staff recommends that the Board approve the concept, with a delegation to staff of further review. The staff has recommended approval on the consent calendar, not because this is not a serious issue the merits discussion, but because the issue was discussed in the April hearing and staff report.

¹ There were some unresolved issues with replacement window material and configuration and questions about fencing depicted on the site plan. At the April hearing, however, the applicant stated that there will be no fencing in the pending application(s).

² As stated previously, it is probable that future door alterations at other stations would have to go to the Mayor's Agent because of the level of reconstruction they will require and the consequent effect on the integrity of design of each.